

Federal Maritime Commission

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(46 U.S.C. app. 817e, 817d); sec. 43 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. app. 841a); sec. 17 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. 1716).

SOURCE: 49 FR 36313, Sept. 14, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Proof of Financial Responsibility, Bonding and Certification of Financial Responsibility for Indemnification of Passengers for Nonperformance of Transportation

§ 540.1 Scope.

(a) The regulations contained in this subpart set forth the procedures whereby persons in the United States who arrange, offer, advertise or provide passage on a vessel having berth or stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers and embarking passengers at U.S. ports shall establish their financial responsibility or, in lieu thereof, file a bond or other security for obligations under the terms of ticket contracts to indemnify passengers for nonperformance of transportation to which they would be entitled. Included also are the qualifications required by the Commission for issuance of a Certificate (Performance) and the basis for the denial, revocation, modification, or suspension of such Certificates.

(b) Failure to comply with this part may result in denial of an application for a certificate. Vessels operating without the proper certificate may be denied clearance and their owners may also be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 in addition to a civil penalty of \$200 for each passage sold, such penalties to be assessed by the Federal Maritime Commission (46 U.S.C. app. 91, 817d and 817e).

§ 540.2 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) *Person* includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and other legal entities existing under or authorized by the laws of the United States or any State thereof or the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands or any territory or possession of the

United States, or the laws of any foreign country.

(b) *Vessel* means any commercial vessel having berth or stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers and embarking passengers at U.S. ports.

(c) *Commission* means the Federal Maritime Commission.

(d) *United States* includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands or any territory or possession of the United States.

(e) *Berth or stateroom accommodation or passenger accommodations* includes all temporary and all permanent passenger sleeping facilities.

(f) *Certificate (Performance)* means a Certificate of Financial Responsibility for Indemnification of Passengers for Nonperformance of Transportation issued pursuant to this subpart.

(g) *Passenger* means any person who is to embark on a vessel at any U.S. port and who has paid any amount for a ticket contract entitling him to water transportation.

(h) *Passenger revenue* means those monies wherever paid by passengers who are to embark at any U.S. port for water transportation and all other accommodations, services and facilities relating thereto.

(i) *Unearned passenger revenue* means that passenger revenue received for water transportation and all other accommodations, services, and facilities relating thereto not yet performed.

(j) *Insurer* means any insurance company, underwriter, corporation, or association or underwriters, ship owners' protection and indemnity association, or other insurer acceptable to the Commission.

(k) *Evidence of insurance* means a policy, certificate of insurance, cover note, or other evidence of coverage acceptable to the Commission.

(l) *Whole-ship charter* means an arrangement between a passenger vessel operator and a corporate or institutional entity:

(1) Which provides for the purchase of all the passenger accommodations on a vessel for a particular voyage or series of voyages; and

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(2) Whereby the involved corporate or institutional entity provides such accommodations to the ultimate passengers free of charge and such accommodations are not resold to the public.

[49 FR 36313, Sept. 14, 1984, as amended at 57 FR 41891, Sept. 14, 1992]

§ 540.3 Proof of financial responsibility, when required.

No person in the United States may arrange, offer, advertise or provide passage on a vessel unless a Certificate (Performance) has been issued to or covers such person.

§ 540.4 Procedure for establishing financial responsibility.

(a) In order to comply with section 3 of Public Law 89-777 (80 Stat. 1357, 1358) enacted November 6, 1966, there must be filed an application on Form FMC-131 for a Certificate of Financial Responsibility for Indemnification of Passengers for Nonperformance of Transportation. Copies of Form FMC-131 may be obtained from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.

(b) An application for a Certificate (Performance) shall be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, by the vessel owner or charterer at least 60 days in advance of the arranging, offering, advertising, or providing of any water transportation or tickets in connection therewith except that any person other than the owner or charterer who arranges, offers, advertises, or provides passage on a vessel may apply for a Certificate (Performance). Late filing of the application will be permitted only for good cause shown. All applications and evidence required to be filed with the Commission shall be in English, and any monetary terms shall be expressed in terms of U.S. currency. The Commission shall have the privilege of verifying any statements made or any evidence submitted under the rules of this subpart. An application for a Certificate (Performance), excluding an application for the addition or substitution of a vessel to the applicant's fleet, shall be accompanied by a filing fee remittance of \$2,152. An application for a Certificate (Performance) for the addition or substitution of a vessel to the

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applicant's fleet shall be accompanied by a filing fee remittance of \$1,076.

(c) The application shall be signed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the applicant with a copy of evidence of his or her authority. In the event of any material change in the facts as reflected in the application, an amendment to the application shall be filed no later than five (5) days following such change. For the purpose of this subpart, a material change shall be one which: (1) Results in a decrease in the amount submitted to establish financial responsibility to a level below that required to be maintained under the rules of this subpart, or (2) requires that the amount to be maintained be increased above the amount submitted to establish financial responsibility. Notice of the application for, issuance, denial, revocation, suspension, or modification of any such Certificate shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[49 FR 36313, Sept. 14, 1984, as amended at 59 FR 59172, Nov. 16, 1994; 63 FR 50537, Sept. 22, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 63 FR 50537, Sept. 22, 1998, the last sentence in § 540.4(a) and the last sentence in § 540.4(b) were revised, and another sentence was added to the end of § 540.4(b), effective Nov. 2, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 540.4 Procedure for establishing financial responsibility.

(a) * * * Copies of Form FMC-131 may be obtained from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, or at the Commission's offices at New York, NY; New Orleans, LA; San Francisco, CA; Miami, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Hato Rey, PR; and Chicago, IL.

(b) * * * An application for a Certificate (Performance) shall be accompanied by a filing fee remittance of \$1,874.

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§ 540.5 Insurance, guaranties, escrow accounts, and self-insurance.

Except as provided in § 540.9(j), the amount of coverage required under this section and § 540.6(b) shall be in an amount determined by the Commission to be no less than 110 percent of the unearned passenger revenue of the applicant on the date within the 2 fiscal years immediately prior to the filing of